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## Thoughts at the Grave of Mr. Ebnor

By G. W. Smith.

Alas! how chill thy bed,  
Pale sleeper! Thy mould'ring glories keep  
Their lifeless stillness in its confines deep.  
Above thy pillowd head,  
In earth's next verdure the flowers might bloom,  
And scatter their loveliness o'er thy tomb.

And yet, so recently,  
Was wont thy voice, with welcome glad,  
To greet,  
And hand extended warm when pulses beat  
Even as yesterday,  
Song was on thy lips, and vigorous life  
In every movement of the settled strife.

It was not mine to see  
Death close thy eyes, nor burial attend—  
Methinks, thro' the shadowy past, I bend  
Where, 'midst weeping for thee,  
The light is fading from thy couch of pain,  
And hearing the coming of thy funeral train.

The sable hearse moves on,  
As if reluctantly it bear to rest  
Thy young, unweary form—the loved  
and blest—  
White stricken ones and wan,  
Follow close the bier in procession slow,  
Clad in habiliments fashioned for woe.

Onward they come, and stand  
On the narrow brink of thy open grave—  
Ere solemn service was pronounced that  
gave  
Dust unto dust—the hand  
That straightened thy clay for its mansion,  
now  
Uplifts the dark pall for thy marble brow.

And Oh, what anguish deep  
Was stirring the fountains of love divine,  
As kindred lips were pressed, for the last  
time,  
Upon thy pale cold cheek,  
And the sepulchral clouds, and sad farewell,  
Blended their sounds in the expiring knell.

How bears the mother's heart  
Bereavement such as this? The rushing  
tears,  
And heaving bosom, convulsive with years,  
Bespeak the grief to part  
With the spring's rich promise, and hopes  
that fled  
With the latest breath of her treasured  
dead.

Yet death has not the power  
To break the bonds immortal glories hold,  
And faith keeps strengthening as Time  
grows old—  
For the appointed hour,  
When sainted spirits that have waited long,  
Rejoice the loved ones in rapturous throng.

'Tis hard to give them up  
To death's deep slumber—the youthful  
and dear—  
And feel the sorrow of thy absence here.  
And yet how sweet the cup,  
Since God has called thee, from a world  
of gloom,  
To endless joys, through the gates of the  
tomb.

HAZAR, June 27, 1864.

## Another Victim to Tyranny.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Clitz, of the Sixth United States Infantry, stationed at West Point, has been removed from that post and reduced to the rank of major in the 4th. Colonel Clitz sustains the highest military character. He fought through the Mexican war, winning the special commendation of General Scott. He was wounded during the present war at the battle of Gaines' mill, and was taken a prisoner to Richmond. He had received his lieutenant-colonelship by due promotion. The sole reason for his reduction in rank—outweighing his honorable record, his thorough military ability, and his patriotic services for his country—is the fact that he was one of the executive committee on the Battle Monument at West Point, who invited Gen. McClellan to deliver the oration on that occasion, and adhered to their choice in the face of threats from Washington. These threats are now being carried out, first in the removal of Col. Bowman, and now by the removal and reduction in rank of Lt. Col. Clitz. How debased must an administration be, that will descend to such mean acts to gratify its personal spite towards a brave General. The other members of the committee will doubtless be punished in their order.

## Lincoln's Black Favorites.

The school children of Washington city have never been permitted to have a picnic on the White-house Grounds. But on the 4th, Lincoln collected all the same and wild Africans about the city, and opened the grounds for their reception. It was said Lincoln was advised to do this as a means of assuring radical people that he is sound on the negro question, and prevent Fremont from heading him off.

Just so, Lincoln would let white children into the grounds, let them step on the grass, but any quantity of blacks can't trot their delicate hoofs over the yard with his gracious approval. Perhaps he expects that white title he may leave, if anything of this white man's government shall be given to the negro.

## The New Call for 500,000 Men.

If the half a million of new soldiers for which the President calls in his proclamation are needed, the call is a cry of distress and a national humiliation. The bogus proclamation of Howard called for only four-fifths as many, and that inventive scamp is immured in Fort Lafayette for conveying to the world the impression that the Virginia campaign was a failure. Certain it is, that public expectation is disappointed, and the country will not hesitate to inquire who is responsible for the terrible and unavailing waste of life which renders five hundred thousand new men necessary so soon after the opening of a campaign that promised to be triumphant. We say "new" because the waste of life, for we cannot see that any substantial advantage has been gained by our army since our army left the Rappahannock. It has retreated again and again before rebel entrenchments; it is now arrested by rebel intrenchments; and the whole distance from Petersburg to Richmond is hedged up by rebel intrenchments, placed at short intervals for the whole distance of twenty miles. "My plan," as Mr. Lincoln called the overland march, has cost, in this single campaign, more men than either Napoleon or Wellington commanded at Waterloo; not more than either of them lost, we beseech our countrymen to mark, but more than either of them had to lose. And yet the prospect of taking Richmond is not much better than the prospect of taking Charleston.

In the first year of the war, five hundred thousand men were thought to be sufficient for all purposes which could not be served by the militia. This opinion was expressed by Secretary Cameron in his annual report in December, 1861. "With the object of reducing the volunteer force to five hundred thousand," he said, "I propose with the consent of Congress, to consolidate such of the regiments as may, from time to time, fall below the regular standard. The adoption of this measure will decrease the number of officers and proportionally diminish the expenses of the army." In the same report Secretary Cameron, quoting from Jomini, states that the forces of Napoleon on the 1st of June, 1815, after exertions of great vigor to recruit them, amounted to four hundred and fourteen thousand men. At that time, Napoleon had the allied armies of Europe to contend against. We recur to these figures to show how we are exceeding all the old standards of military prudence in our expenditures. The substitution of numbers for brains is an experiment whose success, thus far, does not very clearly justify its adoption.

## Black vs. White Soldiers.

A wounded soldier told us last week that in the long march from the Wilderness to Petersburg, many of the soldiers were completely exhausted, and laid down by the way-side to recover their strength. They were driven up at the point of the bayonet, and compelled to march on, while scores of negroes were allowed to ride in the wagons. He says this preference shown to contrabands is the source of great dissatisfaction among the soldiers.

Another we talked with, said that the remains of a dead negro were treated with far greater respect than those of a white soldier. He related an instance which occurred but a few days since. He saw two soldiers buried within a few minutes, the white one was brought to the grave, and deposited in it, the corpse of his overcoat thrown over his head, and the earth thrown over him. The remains of a black soldier were brought along at the conclusion of the scene just stated. His body was deposited on a mattress, and a white sheet thrown over him, then some straw, and the grave closed over.

Thus the one was buried "tenderly" because he was black, while the other, being white, did not receive the burial he would bestow upon a favorite dog. Humiliating as is the favoritism shown for contrabands, it is resented daily, as if for no other purpose than to debase the white and place the negro above him.—Scranton Register.

## Black vs. White.

The community at Washington City a few days ago were shocked by the news that while a white murderer was being hung there, President Lincoln had pardoned a black murderer. The white man had been circumstantially found guilty of having murdered his wife by excessive beating. The negro murdered the husband with whose wife he held unlawful intercourse. Both were recommended by the court for mercy, but Lincoln had no mercy for the white man, and no punishment for the double crime of the negro. How unjustly fanaticism compels its victims to act, is in these cases, strongly illustrated.

The Albany Evening Journal says that General Grant and others are driving nails in General McClellan's coffin. No matter how many nails they drive in it, he can't feel it himself.—Preston.

Deaths.—Very superior Deaths are sold at this office, at moderate prices.

## Lincoln's Great Joke.

Mr. Lincoln's favorite joke about swapping horses when crossing a river, has become a great argument. He first told it when asked to remove Cameron from the office of Secretary of War. We were then engaged in great military operations and it was no time for a change in the War Department. But the great occasion on which he used it was when the Baltimore Convention informed him of his nomination. He thought the convention acted wisely, and that the people would not wisely in confirming that nomination, and to illustrate and enforce this view he repeated his great joke. Since then we notice that even the learned and dignified Edward Everett has condescended to employ the same argument in support of Lincoln's reelection. As this joke already has thus become historical, and it is to be made the great support of the "smutty joker's" claims to re-election, it is well that the reader should have the story in full. It is, in brief, as follows:

An old Dutchman undertakes to swim a mare and colt across a river; and he, not being able to swim, grasps the colt by tail for safety, when the trio plunge in and make for the opposite side. The colt, with his heavy load, soon spends his strength, shows signs of giving out, and as he begins to sink, looks on standing on the banks shout to the Dutchman to let go the colt and lay hold of the mare's tail, as she is as strong as ever, or both will go down; but the Dutchman replies: "It is no place to swap horses in the middle of a stream." Down he goes with the colt to a foul's death.

Now this story is peculiarly applicable to "the situation," and the prospect is that the adherence to the old Dutchman's rule, by our people, will be followed with a like result. If the Dutchman had "swapped horses in the middle of a stream" he would probably have got safe over—saving not only his own life, but that of his colt also. But adhering to his notion that it was no place to swap horses, he lost both. Now our people and their government are literally in the middle of a stream, and like the Dutchman, they find they have a weak and unreliable support in those who are unfortunately in charge of their affairs. Shall they, then, follow the stupid and fatal rule and example of the foolish old Dutchman, or the sensible dictate of common sense? Shall they stick to the sinking colt—Lincoln; or lay hold of the "strong mare"—the patriotic Democracy? This is a great question, and the full story, so often bro't forward by the "smutty joker," forcibly suggests the only correct and proper answer.

## Shame on Massachusetts.

The indecent haste of Massachusetts to get more than her share of the negroes to represent her sons in the army under the new draft will fill the country with disgust. It will be remembered that the Massachusetts members of Congress would not vote to repeal the three hundred dollar commutation clause until the privilege was allowed the once glorious negroes as substitutes. It now further seems that the Massachusetts men must have exacted still another concession from the War Department—that of notifying them beforehand when the draft was to take place, so that they could be first in the field, and thus have the largest and best assortment of dummies to handle the muskets designed for white Bay State men. It will be noticed, before the President's call was out, that Gov. Andrew had all the machinery prepared, and that his proclamation was out before Lincoln's, showing that he must have been informed in advance of the other states.

What a commentary all this is upon the roads of swarming yankees who were to rush to arms when an emancipation proclamation was issued! At this very day Massachusetts has fewer white men in the ranks in proportion to her population than any state in the North. Were the negroes and the foreigners withdrawn, it would be found that the number of native Massachusetts men would be contemptibly small.

Of course we do not wish to be understood as blaming all Massachusetts men for the conduct of the malignant abolitionists who have ruled that unfortunate state for the last score of years; yet it is easy to see what taunts and reproaches will be heaped upon Massachusetts, both for what she has done, and what she has not done. This unhappy war, commenced while her sons are represented in the field by negroes, they are to be found in their proper persons, in the ranks of the howling mercenaries, wherever bloody rules triumph or corruption clamors for her prey.

Read, Biscuit, Cakes and Puddings going through the process of baking, change all the substances of HERBIC Allen's Gold Medal Saleratus into "Carbonic acid Gas," which then passes away so that there is not a particle of it remaining in the food in which it is used, thereby making it perfectly wholesome and healthy, and perfectly adapted to weak stomachs and dyspepsia. Sold by GERRITSON & DUNN, at this office, at moderate prices.

## THE LATE NATIONAL HUMILIATION.

The Valley of the Shenandoah has more than once been the valley of the national humiliation. After more than three years of gigantic war, our military administration has not learned to apprehend the relation of this valley to the defense of Washington; and the enemy, safely presuming on the ignorance and shiftlessness of that administration, has learned to practice in this quarter a wearisome monotony of movement which only serves to show that he deems it safe at any time to hope for success by counting on our official stupidity as a standing substitute for his poverty of invention.

Tallegrand was wont to say that it is always safer to rely on the folly of your antagonist than on your own sagacity, and it is certain that the enemy, in the use he periodically makes of the valley of the Shenandoah, has shown his own sagacity only in presuming always on our official want of that quality in the conduct of the war. Physical geography has ordained that the occlusion, or at least the vigilant observation, of this side approach to the city of Washington, shall be a prime element to any campaign which starts from Washington, has the city of Richmond for its objective point. And yet, with a want of foresight which, in the absence of all conceivable motive for the wilful betrayal of a grave public trust, confounds the reason of ordinary mortals by its magnitude and by its inveteracy, our military authorities have for four successive summers permitted this valley to be used by the enemy at his pleasure for the purpose of bringing confusion upon the well-laid plans of our generals operating against Richmond.

Whether it be at one time a failure to station in this valley a capable commanding officer, or at another from not retaining a force under his command, or at still another from not occupying the proper points of observation to deny the approach of danger, or time to guard against positive mischief, or whether, as at some times, it be from committing all these blunders at once, certain it is that the military administration, in giving the country much sad experience of inefficiency, has nowhere made that inefficiency more egregious and deplorable than in this quarter.

The first battle of Bull Run was turned from victory into disaster from the failure of General Patterson to prevent the junction of General Joseph E. Johnston, thro' this valley, with General Beauregard in the very crisis of the conflict—a failure which, whether resulting from the incompetency of General Patterson, as some charge, or from the inadequacy of his aggressive force, as others represent, is one of which the responsibility must equal rest on the central power which appoints our commanders and directs the operations of the war.

The campaign of General McClellan was arrested and frustrated by the incursion of General Jackson into this valley in the latter part of May, 1862, compelling the abrupt retreat of General Banks, throwing our military authorities here into a most abject panic, and preventing the contemplated junction of General McDowell with General McClellan by the Fredericksburg railroad—be being diverted from this line of march to engage in what he knew to be an impossible chase of Jackson; and Jackson in the meantime, after distracting all our combinations, succeeded in hurling his whole column against McClellan's forces around Richmond at the very moment when our military authorities, relying on the reports of General Fremont after the battle of Cross Keys on the 8th of June, supposed him still to be detained in that valley by the threatening presence of that officer.

Then came the brief campaign of Gen. Pope, in which after having his flank repeatedly turned and his communications with Washington broken by an attack in the rear, he was badly repulsed, and driven into the defenses at Washington, while the enemy, with leisurely composure, turned from the pursuit of his broken and mishandled forces to proceed through this same valley, and make the formidable incursion into Maryland which was repelled by General McClellan at the battle of Antietam on the 17th of Sept. 1862.

We need not pause to describe the disgraceful event which preceded the occupation of Winchester by the enemy at this time, or which attended the surrender of Harper's Ferry—results all due to the incapacity which placed incompetent officers in important positions; and which in the case of Harper's Ferry, was made doubly conspicuous on this occasion, by the retention of Col. Miles at that post, under orders from General Halleck, after the military availability of the position was entirely neutralized by the turn which events had taken. Official incompetency at Washington, this combined with military incompetency at the post, to create anew at the entrance of this valley, the shadowy fogs of an unparalelled humiliation, which largely modified the exultation justly produced by the victory of Antietam, and which in all generous minds, was intensified by the attempt to throw on General McClellan the responsibility for the blunders toward events which he had the sagacity to foresee, but not the power to prevent.

after his advice in the premises had been contemned by the general in chief. And next, in the summer of 1863, more than a month after the disaster of Chancellorsville, under General Hooker, the confederate commander proceeded to project a new invasion of the North, via. of this same Shenandoah valley. From a failure on the part of our military authorities to occupy in this quarter the proper points of observation, and from their failure to place in the positions actually occupied the requisite military talent and skill, the country was again called upon to blush at the disgraceful stampede of Military which preceded the incursion of the enemy into Maryland. Winchester was evacuated with John Gilpin's speed; and eighteen field pieces, five thousand five hundred muskets, and a large quantity of ammunition were left behind by the fugitives—a valuable gift to the invading enemy.

After such repeated experience of the military relations held by this valley to the safety of Washington and to the success of the impending operations against Richmond, it might have been supposed that military directors, with as little perspicacity as ours have shown themselves to possess, would not for the fourth time permit mismanagement in this valley to lay a stone of stumbling and rock of offense in the way of the campaign. And yet, the illustration we have just had of the want of foresight which has been signaled by the conduct of the war in this quarter surpasses in its proportions anything we have yet been called to witness. Let us analyze the elements of the invasion which has just ended in the raising of the "siege of Washington."

It is obvious to the most un military mind that in order to guard the side approach to Washington via. the Shenandoah valley, a post of observation should be selected at such a point in or near the valley as shall enable the force which occupies it to discern the approach of danger in time to guard against the descent of the blow and to calculate its probable weight whenever it may fall. Before starting out on the campaign against Richmond in the spring of 1862, General McClellan was careful to take precautions on this score. Under date of March 16, of that year, he wrote to General Banks (who had been selected to watch the valley), as follows:

Your first care will be the rebuilding of the railway from Washington to Manassas and to Strasburg, in order to open your communications with the valley of the Shenandoah. As soon as the Manassas Gap Railway is in running order, in trench a brigade of infantry, say four regiments, with two batteries, at or near the point where the railway crosses the Shenandoah. Something like two regiments of cavalry should be left in that vicinity to occupy Winchester, and thoroughly scour the country south of the railway and up the Shenandoah valley, as well as through Chester gap, which might perhaps be advantageously occupied by a detachment of infantry, well intrenched. Block-houses should be built at all the railway bridges. Occupy by grand guards Warrenton junction and Warrenton itself, and also some more advanced points on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, as soon as the railway bridge is repaired.

Great activity should be observed by the cavalry. Besides the two regiments at Manassas, another regiment of cavalry will be at your disposal to scout toward Opequan, and probably a fourth toward Leesburg.

To recapitulate the most important points which should engage your attention, as follows:

1. A strong force, well intrenched, in the vicinity of Manassas, perhaps even Centerville, and another force (a brigade) also well intrenched near Strasburg.
2. Block-houses at the railway bridges.
3. Constant employment of the cavalry well to the front.
4. Grand guards at Warrenton junction, and in advance as far as the Rappahannock, if possible.
5. Great care to be exercised to obtain full and early information as to the enemy.
6. The general object is to cover the line of the Potomac and Washington.

We all know how these prudential arrangements of General McClellan were broken up by the military powers which undertook the direction of the war after he had been removed from his previous control of its operations. And since that date these prudential measures, as respects the Shenandoah Valley, have never been re-established, for no other reason, as far as we can perceive, than that to re-establish them might be construed by some into a tribute to General McClellan's military sagacity in selecting a point of observation like Chester Gap, midway on the eastern border of the valley, where the approach of danger would be perceived in time to meet and check it at Harper's Ferry, instead of some point on the Upper Potomac, where, with such officers as the military administration habitually stations there, the approach of danger is known to the country only by the stampede of our forces from Winchester, Williamsport, or Harper's Ferry, and by a panic of the authorities at Washington, who, knowing nothing with regard to the movements or magnitude of the invading force, fall as

easy prey to every idle and vagrant rumor which vexes the atmosphere in a time of alarm and uncertainty. The unknown is always portentous. In the absence of the definite configurations revealed to the mind by assured knowledge, the startled imagination, while blindly groping in the dark, peeps all space with "gorgons, hydras, and chimeras dire." Even so brave a heart as that of King Richard, in the play of our great dramatist, was appalled by "shadows" as he exclaims:

And so, during the last few days, we have seen the administration starting at specious, uttering panics of alarm, and with its hands palsied by imaginary terrors, simply because it had neglected the most ordinary precautions for properly watching and occluding the Shenandoah valley. Incompetent officers have been stationed at points actually occupied, and points which should have been occupied for purposes of observation have been left without any guard whatever. Military incompetence on the Upper Potomac has been reinforced by military incompetence in Baltimore, as illustrated by Major General Lew. Wallace, who is retained in command—just long enough to lose the battle of Monocacy, and then superseded by a capable officer in the field, while he is needlessly retained in command of the department, as if only to multiply the chances of confusion by the possible intrusion of his alacrity for blundering, and that too when it is no secret that in his "civil capacity" he has, by his illegal proceedings, brought down on his head, as we understand, the gravest censure of the Attorney-General of the United States.

What wonder that under such an administration of our military affairs a patry squadron of two or three hundred bold riders can, with entire impunity, cut rail-roads between Harrisburg and Baltimore, and Baltimore and Philadelphia; or that a mere squad of ten men can approach within four miles of a city containing two hundred thousand inhabitants, garrisoned by twenty thousand men, and burn at leisure the mansion of the governor of Maryland; or that five hundred men should, by simply sitting down before one of the forts of Washington and establishing a weak skirmish line, succeed in placing the capital of the nation under siege, cutting its telegraphic communications with Baltimore, burning the houses of a cabinet minister within six miles of the city, and reducing the government to the necessity of relying on river and sea navigation for its connections with the great North? And all this, be it remembered, happens in the fourth year of the war, with men by hundreds of thousand under arms!

And now we ask, the whole nation will ask, who is responsible for such humiliation? Is it the President, the Secretary of War, the chief of staff, or can it be that our military affairs are still left at such loose ends (as we know them to have been before) that sometimes one and sometimes the other of the functionaries assumes to exercise the direction of the war, selects the points of military occupation, and assigns the officers to their several commands? In the uncertainty resting on this subject we think there is no doubt about one thing, and that is, that if the President cannot discover and correct the source of these blunders, the people in the approaching election will not be slow to discover one method by which they can put an end to this reign of military incompetence in Washington. No respect for the President's "honesty of purpose," and no admiration for the purity, intelligence, and administrative skill which they may recognize in other executive departments of the government, will stand in the way of riding the War Department of the incubus which now visibly rests on it under its present management, making it a shame and a reproach to the nation. And in so saying we intend no particular personal allusion to Mr. Stanton, for we do not know to-day that he is responsible for these things. It may be that he confines himself strictly to the civil details of his office, and does not meddle in the matters which somebody under him or above him brings to such confusion. But we do know that somebody is responsible for the late gross misfeasance, which must ever stand in our military annals as a national disgrace, so long as posterity shall revert to the time when five hundred men laid Washington under siege for two days with ten or twenty thousand men behind its defenses! Such is the penalty which a nation pays for being ruled in any department by its ignorance rather than its intelligence.

Nor does the evil end with the disappearance of the late fright. Who, after such an exhibition of military incompetence in our councils, can repose any confidence in military administration so long as shall remain subject to its present directors? What security can any man feel when the watchman from the walls of our national capital lift up their voices only to expose their own ignorance of the nature and extent of the peril from which they call the people to save them? What guarantee can any state give to the nation, when the state's alarm are beaten in Washington of this alarm are beaten with most vehemence when there is the